

TWO
STATE PAPERS:

WITH

A PREFACE

· *BY A WHIG,*

AND

A COMMENTARY

BY A TORR.

Dum clavum teneam rifum teneatis amioi.

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TWO

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TO THE
REV. CHARLES WALLINGTON,
OF CHRIST CHURCH COLLEGE, OXFORD, M. A.
RECTOR OF HACKWELL IN THE
DIOCESE OF LONDON,

THIS TRIFLE IS INSCRIBED,

AS A SMALL TESTIMONY

OF

THE AUTHOR'S GRATITUDE FOR FAVOURS
RECEIVED,

HIS ESTEEM FOR PURITY OF HEART, AND
INTEGRITY OF LIFE,

AND

HIS RESPECT FOR THE ECCLESIASTICAL
ESTABLISHMENT OF ENGLAND.

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR THE YEAR 1891

PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON: 1892

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WASHINGTON, D. C.

P R E F A C E.

WHILST the minutest transactions of King and Aristocracies are committed to writing, and handed down to posterity, every friend to Liberty and Equality must lament that the memorials of those spotless individuals, who, in guilty ages, have remained uncontaminated by the corruption of Courts and Ministers, should sink into oblivion and be totally lost. It is a shocking thing to recollect how many valuable records, relative to Wat Tyler and his worthy associates, it is now impossible to obtain: Were these extant, we should have an opportunity of contemplating with a glow of admiring enthusiasm, the doctrines and demeanour of this patriot band in the reign of Richard the Second; and we should be convinced of the progressive nature of excellence, by collating the ancient manuscripts with Mr. Thelwall's Lectures and the Resolutions of the London Corresponding Society. On this account the Editor has been induced to bind up two State Papers, which can

by accident into his hands : The first is a Letter from Citizen John Harrison, of Sheffield, Razor-maker, to Citizen Charles Grey, Representative of the People. Many persons have imputed to the former gentleman a desire of overthrowing our Constitution in Church and State, of putting down the privileged orders, and equalizing property; and have ascribed this plan of his to motives of interest and ambition.

His own Letter, in which he unbofoms himself to a particular friend, cannot fail of convincing every impartial reader of two very important points : 1st, That Mr. Harrison, so far from entertaining any dislike for monarchy and hierarchy, reckons these institutions essential to the well-being of a community ; and 2dly, That he is incapable of doing or attempting any thing which his conscience does not declare to be completely right, and consonant to truth and virtue.

On Mr. Grey, a correspondence with so distinguished a character reflects no small degree of lustre. The communications of the nymph Germania enabled Numa to enact laws, on the equity and prudence of which many have descanted a strain of panegyric. The youthful Representative of Northumbria in like manner derives no

small advantages from the instructions of the venerable patriarch of Sheffield. Their united efforts have produced those orations on the state of the representation, the landing of the Hessians and the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act which display the wonderful powers of the vigour of youth, tempered by the deliberation of old age and which show us,

—Quid Augusti possit paternus
In puerum animus Neronem.

The second Paper is the Report of Citizen Barrere, upon the glorious Victory obtained by the French Fleet on the first of June 1794. The prominent features of this composition are the speaker's scrupulous regard to veracity, his modesty, when relating the success of his gallant countrymen, and the spirit of fraternization which he displays even towards the enemies of his nation.

It may, perhaps, be reckoned unusual for State Papers to be written in verse:—As an answer to this objection, give me leave to remark, that the method having never yet been adopted, is a sufficient reason why it should be pursued; and to argue the point of analogy, surely, since dispatches from Generals are concluded with an oath, it

not unreasonable for the politician and the statesman to hitch their materials into rhyme.

It is necessary to warn the Reader of the insinuations which the Commentator has thrown out in his Notes. Whatever may be his imperfections and demerits, it is but justice to say that he is an old English Tory, antique in his notions, and unshaken in his principles.

A L E T T E R

FROM

CITIZEN JOHN HARRISON TO CITIZEN
CHARLES GREY;

AND THE

REPORT OF CITIZEN BARRERE.

A LETTER

FROM JOHN HARRISON TO
CHARLES GALT

THEY ARE BOTH DEAD

A LETTER
FROM
CITIZEN JOHN HARRISON,
OF SHEFFIELD, RAZOR-MAKER,
TO
CITIZEN CHARLES GREY,
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE.

Such men must have fronts of brass, and deserve all the indignation that is due to iniquity, aggravated by impudence.

Lord Vis. BOLINGBROKE's Diff. on Part. Lett.

TO Citizen Grey, I the true Sans Culotte,
In Sheffield a patriot of honour and note,
John Harrison write, being in want of advice :
Be pleas'd, oh our champion ! to tip us a splice,
For with nouse scientific thy mind is enlighten'd,
And with Priestley's rich precepts thy brains they
brighten'd.

Prithee tell us, Charles Grey, shall we fight or petition
Shall we humbly insist on the Premier's dismissal,
Or triumphantly terrible say shall we rise,
And frighten each despot with loud free-born cries ?
D'ye advise us, as suppliants, a peace for to ask,
And 'neath old-fashion'd loyalty's fair specious mask,

our hopes, plans, and projects quite snug to conceal,
 and those schemes, which we frame for our dear country's
 weal?

We're told, Sir, by those, who 're acquainted with books,
 that when Pym, Fiennes, and Co. just like you and
 Charles Fox,

Wish'd Charley the First to kick down from his throne,
 and to make all preferments and pensions their own,
 the presence right humbly they always approach'd,
 and whene'er on the monarch's just rights they en-
 croach'd,

with bowing and smiling they swore 'pon their word,
 that he was their liege and their dread gracious lord.
 'ere 'tis prudent to follow this skilful example;
 and truly yourself, Sir, you gave us a sample,
 with one self-same mouth how to blow hot and cold,
 when in courage alert, in audacity bold,

St. Stephen's last sessions so graceful you rose,
 whilst the party cried, *Hear*, just like so many crows,
 when the monarch of Britain you humbly address'd
 follow those plans, which to you seem'd the best,
 hug your dear Danton in friendly embrace,
 and to clasp to his bosom Marat's murky face *.
 tell you the truth, Charles, I'm rather afraid,
 though a staunch Sans Culotte, and a right valiant blade,

Alluding to the long Address to his Majesty, moved by Mr.
 Pym in the House of Commons on the 21st of February 1793.

Of Pitt and of Grenville, in open defiance
 To rise, and to place my sole hope and reliance
 On th' event of a contest; because, Sir, what then?
 Of England's inhabitants nine out of ten,
 Like fools, are resolv'd to stick fast to the cause
 Of their monarch, establish'd religion and laws*.
 Those laws fram'd by men, who had ne'er read Voltaire
 And who never Helvetius had studied with care,
 Are harsh and ridiculous; sure 'tis absurd
 That I can't at my pleasure, Charles, bring down a bird
 'Tis tyrannical too that I can't, when I please,
 Of some part of its wealth Aristocracy ease. [strong light
 We're instructed, dear Charles, by Dame Reason
 That to earth, air, and water Mankind has a right,
 How far then is 't fair that one man should intrude
 On this field, or that house, and his brethren exclude?
 Say when shall that day, full of happiness, come,
 When no more being annoy'd by the sound of the drum
 The world shall repose in fraternity and peace,
 As of old in the ancient republics of Greece?

* Baron Montesquieu informs us, that our Constitution was framed by our ancestors in the woods of Germany, at least two thousand years ago, and proves it to be erected on the broad basis of civil and political liberty. Every one knows that the Constitution of France was planned but yesterday in the brothels of Paris whilst universal devastation and blasphemous decrees demonstrate to be built on impunity and irreligion.—Englishmen! make your choice.

he Despot's high throne topsy-turvy we'll turn,
 he Judges we'll strangle, the Bishops we'll burn ;
 hen shall Kenyon and Ashurst put on a wry face,
 and Wedderburn ousted from woollack and mace,
 Moore, Markham, and Porteous shall feel a reverse,
 Whilst we Sans Culottes share the Treasury purse ;
 hen shall Thanet be Tufton, and Bedford be Ruffel,
 Abemarle shall be Keppel * ; and I, 'midst the tussel,
 by fair means, or foul means, will better my station,
 devour the whole church, and direct the whole nation †.

SHEFFIELD,
 Feb. 1794.

JOHN HARRISON,
 SANS CULOTTE.

* Quære, How long will they continue so ?

† Have we not beheld under the different impressions of sorrow
 and joy, of astonishment, anger, pity, and indignation, the various
 orders of nobility, from princes of the blood, down to the noblesse of
 the robe and the finance, swept off the stage in regular succession,
 they came forward to take the lead, and direct that mass which
 they imagined could be moulded and fashioned to their purpose
 like wax ?" Mr. MILES to the Duke of GRAFTON, page 26.

† Such, it seems, are the sentiments of Mr. Harrison with re-
 spect to ecclesiastical establishments: Give me leave to adduce another
 authority somewhat prior in point of time, though I do not presume
 to place it in competition with that of the illumined Cutler ;—

" Anglicana ecclesia libera sit, et habeat jura sua integra,
 et libertates suas illæsas." MAGNA CHARTA.

THE REPORT
OF
CITIZEN BARRERE,
UPON THE GLORIOUS VICTORY OBTAINED BY
THE FRENCH FLEET
UPON THE FIRST OF JUNE 1794.

Age dic Britannum
Barbite carmen
Gallico primum modulate cive.

YE citizen patriots, sent up by the nation,
To effect the blest work of its regeneration,
Who unbias'd by interest this grand end pursue,
To equality faithful—to liberty true,
In the moment of transport vouchsafe to attend
To me—to Barrere—the republic's best friend.
By my colleagues in office, ye Bruti, I 'm chose,
To relate all the triumphs obtain'd o'er your foes—
That shop-keeping gang *, who 've religion and wealth,
Bishops, churches, and priests, and who tamper by stealth

* This expression, ridiculous as it may seem, every one will allow to be a literal translation of the phrase *Nation Boutiquaire*:—With these wise and just legislators industry is a crime, and plunder is the only legal method of obtaining a title to property.

With those cut-throats the Feuillans to kill Robespierre,
 Of Gallia the darling, of Paris the care ;
 For whom blackamoors trample the sugar, that's brown,
 Whose judges wear wigs, and whose king wears a crown.
 On the first of last June, with full fourteen ships less
 Than the nation of old domineer'd by queen Befs,
 Our fleet, Sirs, came up, and full soon did it chase
 From the ocean's broad back with an air and a grace,
 Of Britain the cowards, the poltroons, the slaves :
 Full many a thousand is sunk in the waves.
 To compute in style mod'rate, ten vessels are sunk,
 And Admiral Howe has sheer'd off in a funk.
 The harbour of Portsmouth sev'n ships of our's block,
 And soon they 'll dislodge of the dunghill the cock,
 Old George, who now issues morose proclamation,
 And sets his full face against all reformation.
Give la loi & le peuple ! let Paris now shout :
 Whoe'er entertains hesitation or doubt
 Of the truth of these facts Maximilian * has sworn,
 That he'll make but short work with the son of a —.
 The sceptical moderat on lamp-post shall swing
 Like those who of old cried out God save the King !

* Citizen Robespierre the younger, who with his worthy brother

“ Together flourish'd, and together fell.”

At the time when this glorious and decisive victory was gained
 The French fleet, these men were in the zenith of their power.
 To the Christian philosopher it is a task, equally awful and instruc-
 tive, to trace the finger of an avenging Deity.

But hold---here's an error ; why sure I'd forgot,
 That Victoire's blest invention shall be his mild lot,
 That engine of terror yclept Guillotine,
 Which now thirsts for the blood of the King and the Queen
 Of Britain, who monarchy dare to maintain,
 Opposing each dogma of Goodwin * and Paine :
 Then too shall expire all the enemies of Fox, [Know
 With those who've revil'd Priestley, Wakefield †, and
 In France, how prolific in corn's ev'ry plain,
 This phænomenon sure can't arise from the rain,
 For of old full as bounteous descended the show'r,
 Nor does *l'etre suprême* more abundantly pour
 From the clouds of high heaven the water's swift stream
 Than when *Veto* ‡ that rogue of each song was the theme

* To those, who have read this man's Enquiry into Political Justice, it is needless to remark, that he has published a book, which is replete with every absurdity, that it is possible for a being whose powers are finite to devise, and which holds up to our view *ne plus ultra* of flightiness and impiety.

† The commentator some time ago was induced to publish a set of remarks upon a publication of this gentleman's, which was given to the world under the title of the " Spirit of Christianity ;" though, as far as intentions and dispositions can be gathered, even from professions of them, no two minds can be more oppositely modelled than those of Mr. G. Wakefield, and that great Benefactor of mankind, whom he calls his Master.

‡ A name, affixed to that upright and ill-fated monarch, who was murdered for exercising a discretionary power, intrusted to him by the constitution, at a crisis, when justice and policy equally called for its exertion.

When no dogs *Ca Ira* did in unison bark,
 But when every sheep bleated *Notre très grand Monarque*.

'Tis the blood of the nobles enriches our soil,
 Far more efficacious than peasantry's toil.

Let the Poissards some Barons and Viscounts can stab,
 Equipp'd with the breeches the spouse of each drab
 Belgium so gallant may plunder and fight,
 Whilst the lands teem with culture abundant in spight
 Of their absence—'tis prov'd the best raiser of corn
 The blood of the rascals, who nobly are born.

England now famine so pinching prevails,
 Notwithstanding the labour and sweat of their males.
 Let the people may fly to this remedy sure,
 Let the ashes of Bishops be us'd as manure,
 Let the Piercy, the Devereux, and Somers set bleed,
 With the Townshend and Wentworth profusely---there's
 need.

When plenty so cheering and pleasing shall smile,
 And diffuse ev'ry blessing o'er th' equaliz'd isle;
 No taxes the people shall harass and grind *,
 No shackles be plac'd on the thoughts of the mind †.

The commentator, with due deference to the superior judgments of others, delivers it as his opinion, that should his country adopt the French system, experience will show them, that they made no very profitable exchange, when they find that instead of a small portion of their property being applied to purposes of national expediency, the whole of it will be put into a state of re-

In regen'rating selves the whole world soon shall vie,
 The cook shall disdain to make pudding or pie,
 The taylor no more shall stitch waistcoats and breeches,
 Or the jew'ler sell watches, toys, bracelets, and switches
 In one grand Convention all freemen shall meet,
 And taste the blest joys of equality sweet.

(Signed) BARRERE.

quisition to support a numerous and ill-disciplined army in riot and abundance, which will be no more than an engine of force in the hands of a few taylors and shoe-makers, styling themselves "The Committee of Public Safety."

† That is to say, no man will be restrained from publishing his opinions, however monstrous may be their complexion, however fatal may be their tendency, and from making proselytes among those classes of the people, whose want of education renders them unable to cope with sophistry, or to see through delusion.

THE END.